



English Martyrs' Catholic Primary School

Friday 27th February 2026

Welcome back to our 4th half term of the school year! I hope everyone had a restful half term break!

We have a very busy few weeks ahead of us, so please be sure to keep an eye on messages via The School App and also diary dates below.

Many of you will have had pancakes last Tuesday ahead of Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent the following day. As Lent began during the holidays, we were not able to mark it in school, we have been talking about it since we have been back.

Fr Paddy came in to visit Nursery and Reception on Monday morning to explain what Lent is, what Ash Wednesday means and how we can make the right choices during Lent. Fr Paddy is giving up chocolate for Lent and asked Mrs Thomas and Nursery to look after the Easter Egg they bought him to say thank you, just in case he is tempted!

Lent is a time for forgiveness and to say sorry, it's a time for fasting or giving things up. Like Fr Paddy, some might give up chocolate, bread, sweets, crisps, and also giving up your own time for others.

This Lent in school, we will be following Pope Leo's words and advice in his Lenten Reflection last week. This was to 'fast' from using words that hurt or offend. We are focussing on only using kind words and words that will bring smiles, show peace, love and tolerance with each other, something we will continue to do following Easter and something, I am sure you will agree, the whole world needs to do. Please encourage your child to follow this at home too 😊

Next week is Book week, and we have an action packed week planned!

We have an author visit on Wednesday, Saira Shah, The Great EM Teacher Swap on World Book Day, staff are swapping classes to read to different children and of course World Book Day on Thursday. If you need any ideas for costumes, please chat with your child's class team! And don't forget to keep an eye out for the Staff World Book Day Book on our website and socials, it proves to be another great collaboration! 😊

This half term our focus for Lifelong Learners is Concentration. We will all be looking out for those who show concentration in all they do, whether it is work, concentrate on a difficult task and not give up or concentrate on being a great friend and human being!

(Some children may bring home a regular Shining Star certificate instead of Lifelong Learner ones, this is because I {Mrs Howarth} accidentally ordered 2000 of the Shining Star ones instead of 200 and no Lifelong Learner one! So we need to use them up!

Attendance Matters!

Being in school EVERY DAY and ON TIME is a non-negotiable and expectation for EVERYONE!

	Attendance	Punctuality (Lates)
Reception	99%	4
Year 1	88%	0
Year 2	93%	2
Year 3	95%	11
Year 4	92%	1
Year 5	90%	3
Year 6	89%	0
Total	92%	21

Pantry @ EM

We are 'open' any day at any time if there is ANYTHING you need to stock up on.

Please don't be shy, don't be proud or embarrassed, we are all here to help and support each other.

Please either ask in the office, ask Mrs Hewitson or Mrs Howarth, or any member of staff, or drop one of us an email and we will have a bag ready for you by the end of the day. 😊

What's on in School?	
Date	Activity
Each Thursday until Easter	Year 4 Swimming lessons
Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day! Dress as your favourite book character
Wednesday 18 th March	Year 4 Schools Linking Project trip to Burnley Youth Theatre

'This Lent, let us refrain from words that offend and hurt our neighbour. Let us begin by disarming our language, avoiding harsh words and rash judgement, refraining from slander and speaking ill of those who are not present and cannot defend themselves. Instead, let us strive to measure our words and cultivate kindness and respect. In this way, words of hatred will give way to words of hope and peace.'

Pope Leo XIII Lenten Message 2026

The theme for English Martyrs' Shining Stars this week
was chosen by Year 1 for...

'A positive attitude to learning'

Nursery – Imelda

Reception – Sofia

Year 1 – Alyssia

Year 2 – Tyanna

Year 3 – Maddie

Year 4 – Leen

Year 5 – Tyler

Year 6 – Evan



The Life-Long Learners at English Martyrs' theme for
this half term is...

'Concentration'

Nursery – Grace

Reception – Kamsy

Year 1 – Tamsay

Year 2 – Emmanuel

Year 3 – Christabel

Year 4 – Kendrick

Year 5 – Galla

Year 6 – Hanna

